

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A server operation support apparatus supporting an operation of a server to which a plurality of client computers including a first client computer are connected through a network, said server operation support apparatus comprising:

5 communication means connected to said network for communicating information among said plurality of client computers to allow said plurality of client computers to share information with each other through said server,

10 storage means for storing in advance a transmission destination in transmitting information to said first client computer,

detection means connected to said network for detecting an access status of a client computer to said server, and

15 control means connected to said communication means, said storage means and said detection means for controlling said communication means so that information based on said access status is transmitted to a transmission destination stored in said storage means when said access status detected by said detection means satisfies a predetermined condition.

2. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said server operation support apparatus is realized by said server.

3. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined condition includes a condition that a value calculated based on the number of accesses to said server is at least a predetermined value.

4. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising registration means for registering information of interest preset for a user using said first client computer,

5 wherein said detection means comprises means for detecting information of interest registered in said registration means from

transmission data transmitted by a client computer to said server,

10 wherein said control means comprises means for controlling said communication means so that, when said detection means detects information of interest registered in said registration means from the transmission data, information indicating that transmission data including information of interest of said user has been transmitted to said server is transmitted to said first client computer having the detected information of interest.

5 5. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 1, said server including a plurality of access sites to which said client computer accesses,

5 said server operation support apparatus further comprising registration means for registering an access site preset for said first client computer,

wherein said detection means comprises means for detecting an access status of a client computer to said server for each of said access sites,

10 wherein said control means comprises means for controlling said communication means so that, when said detection means detects access to an access site registered in said registration means, information indicating presence of a client computer accessing an access site linked with said first client computer is transmitted to said first client computer linked with the detected access site.

6. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising registration means for registering personal information preset for a user using said first client computer,

5 wherein said detection means comprises means for detecting personal information of a user using said client computer accessing said server,

wherein said control means comprises means for controlling said communication means so that information indicating access to said server by a client computer having personal information similar to the personal

09867532-053104

10 information of said user using said first client computer is transmitted to
said first client computer having personal information similar to said
personal information detected by said detection means.

7. A server operation support apparatus supporting an operation of
a server to which a plurality of client computers including a first client
computer is connected through a network, said server operation support
apparatus comprising:

5 communication means connected to said network for communicating
information among said plurality of client computers to allow said plurality
of client computers to share information with each other through said server,
said communication means including means for receiving query request
information to inquire an access status from said first client computer,

10 detection means connected to said network for detecting an access
status of a client computer to said server, and

control means connected to said communication means and said
detection means for controlling said communication means so that, in
response to reception of query request information by said communication
15 means, information based on said access status is transmitted to the first
client computer transmitting said query request information.

8. A server operation support apparatus supporting an operation of
a server to which a plurality of client computers are connected through a
network, said server allowing insertion of an advertisement that can be
viewed by said plurality of client computers, said server operation support
5 apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing in advance information indicating an
advertiser,

detection means connected to said network for detecting an access
status of a client computer to said server, and

10 designation means connected to said storage means and said
detection means for designating insertion of an advertisement to said server
according to information indicating an advertiser stored in said storage

means, when said access status detected by said detection means satisfies a predetermined condition.

9. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined condition includes a condition that a value calculated according to the number of accesses to said server is at least a predetermined value.

10. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising advertising fee set means for setting an advertising fee according to said access status.

11. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising communication means for communicating with said advertiser to receive advertisement data from said advertiser,

5 wherein said designation means comprises means for designating insertion of an advertisement realized by said received advertisement data to said server.

12. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising communication means for communicating with said advertiser,

5 wherein said designation means comprises means for transmitting insertion query information including insertion confirmation information confirming whether an advertisement is to be posted or not to the advertiser whose information is stored in said storage means, when said access status detected by said detection means satisfies a predetermined condition, and

10 means for suppressing an operation by said designation means in response to not receiving an insertion request corresponding to said insertion query information within a predetermined period.

13. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 12,

wherein said insertion query information includes access information indicating an access status detected by said detection means.

14. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said means for transmitting insertion query information comprises means for transmitting said insertion query information to a plurality of advertisers,

5 wherein said predetermined condition includes a condition determined for each said advertiser.

15. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising advertising fee set means for setting an advertising fee according to said access status for each said advertiser.

16. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said designation means comprises means for designating insertion of an advertisement to said server in a descending order of said advertising fee in response to reception of an insertion request from a plurality of said advertisers.

5

17. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said insertion query information comprises charge information indicating advertising fee set by said advertising fee set means.

18. A server operation support apparatus supporting an operation of a server to which a plurality of client computers including a first client computer are connected through a network, said server operation support apparatus comprising:

5 a communication circuit connected to said network for communicating information among said plurality of client computers to allow said plurality of client computers to share information with each other through said server,

a storage circuit storing in advance a transmission destination in

10 transmitting information to said first client computer,
a detection circuit connected to said network for detecting an access
status of a client computer to said server, and
a control circuit connected to said communication circuit, said
storage circuit and said detection circuit for controlling said communication
15 circuit so that information based on said access status is transmitted to a
transmission destination stored in said storage circuit when said access
status detected by said detection circuit satisfies a predetermined condition.

19. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 18,
wherein said server operation support apparatus is realized by said server.

20. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 18,
wherein said predetermined condition includes a condition that a value
calculated based on the number of accesses to said server is at least a
predetermined value.

21. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 18,
further comprising a registration circuit for registering information of
interest preset for a user using said first client computer,

5 wherein said detection circuit comprises a circuit for detecting
information of interest registered in said registration circuit from
transmission data transmitted by a client computer to said server,
wherein said control circuit comprises a circuit for controlling said
communication circuit so that, when said detection circuit detects
10 information of interest registered in said registration circuit from the
transmission data, information indicating that transmission data including
information of interest of said user has been transmitted to said server is
transmitted to said first client computer having the detected information of
interest.

22. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 18,
said server including a plurality of access sites to which said client computer

accesses,

5 said server operation support apparatus further comprising a registration circuit for registering an access site preset for said first client computer,

wherein said detection circuit comprises a circuit for detecting an access status of a client computer to said server for each of said access sites,

10 wherein said control circuit comprises a circuit for controlling said communication circuit so that, when said detection circuit detects access to an access site registered in said registration circuit, information indicating presence of a client computer accessing an access site linked with said first client computer is transmitted to said first client computer linked with the detected access site.

23. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising a registration circuit for registering personal information preset for a user using said first client computer,

5 wherein said detection circuit comprises a circuit for detecting personal information of a user using said client computer accessing said server,

10 wherein said control circuit comprises a circuit for controlling said communication circuit so that information indicating access to said server by a client computer having personal information similar to the personal information of said user using said first client computer is transmitted to said first client computer having personal information similar to said personal information detected by said detection circuit.

24. A server operation support apparatus supporting an operation of a server to which a plurality of client computers including a first client computer is connected through a network, said server operation support apparatus comprising:

5 a communication circuit connected to said network for communicating information among said plurality of client computers to allow said plurality of client computers to share information with each other

09867533-053101
TOTAL 26549860

through said server, said communication circuit including a circuit for receiving query request information to inquire an access status from said first client computer,

10 a detection circuit connected to said network for detecting an access status of a client computer to said server, and

a control circuit connected to said communication circuit and said detection circuit for controlling said communication circuit so that, in

15 response to reception of query request information by said communication circuit, information based on said access status is transmitted to the first client computer transmitting said query request information.

25. A server operation support apparatus supporting an operation of a server to which a plurality of client computers are connected through a network, said server allowing insertion of an advertisement that can be viewed by said plurality of client computers, said server operation support

5 apparatus comprising:

a storage circuit for storing in advance information indicating an advertiser,

a detection circuit connected to said network for detecting an access status of a client computer to said server, and

10 a designation circuit connected to said storage circuit and said detection circuit for designating insertion of an advertisement to said server according to information indicating an advertiser stored in said storage circuit, when said access status detected by said detection circuit satisfies a predetermined condition.

26. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said predetermined condition includes a condition that a value calculated according to the number of accesses to said server is at least a predetermined value.

27. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising an advertising fee set circuit for setting an advertising

fee according to said access status.

28. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a communication circuit for communicating with said advertiser to receive advertisement data from said advertiser,

wherein said designation circuit comprises a circuit for designating insertion of an advertisement realized by said received advertisement data to said server.

29. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a communication circuit for communicating with said advertiser,

wherein said designation circuit comprises

a circuit for transmitting insertion query information including insertion confirmation information confirming whether an advertisement is to be posted or not to the advertiser whose information is stored in said storage circuit, when said access status detected by said detection circuit satisfies a predetermined condition, and

a circuit for suppressing an operation by said designation circuit in response to not receiving an insertion request corresponding to said insertion query information within a predetermined period.

30. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said insertion query information includes access information indicating an access status detected by said detection circuit.

31. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said circuit for transmitting insertion query information comprises a circuit for transmitting said insertion query information to a plurality of advertisers,

wherein said predetermined condition includes a condition determined for each said advertiser.

32. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising an advertising fee set circuit for setting an advertising fee according to said access status for each said advertiser.

33. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said designation circuit comprises a circuit for designating insertion of an advertisement to said server in a descending order of said advertising fee in response to reception of an insertion request from a plurality of said advertisers.

34. The server operation support apparatus according to claim 32, wherein said insertion query information comprises charge information indicating an advertising fee set by said advertising fee set circuit.

35. A method of supporting an operation of a server to which a plurality of client computers including a first client computer is connected through a network, said server transmitting and receiving information with respect to said plurality of client computers to allow said plurality of client computers to share information with each other through said server, said server operation support method comprising the steps of:

preparing a transmission destination in transmitting information to said first client computer,

detecting an access status of a client computer to said server, and

transmitting information based on said access status to a transmission destination prepared at said step of preparing a transmission destination when said access status detected at said step of detecting an access status satisfies a predetermined condition.

36. The method according to claim 35, wherein said server operation support method is executed by said server.

37. The method according to claim 35, wherein said predetermined condition includes a condition that a value calculated based on the number

of accesses to said server is at least a predetermined value.

38. The method according to claim 35, further comprising the step of preparing in advance information of interest set for a user using said first client computer,

5 wherein said step of detecting an access status comprises the step of detecting information of interest from transmission data transmitted by a client computer to said server,

10 wherein said step of transmitting information based on an access status comprises the step of transmitting, when said information of interest prepared in advance is detected from the transmission data at said step of detecting an access status, information indicating that transmission data including information of interest of said user has been transmitted to said server to said first client computer having the detected information of interest.

39. The method according to claim 35, wherein said server includes a plurality of access sites to be accessed by said client computer,

said server operation support method further comprising the step of preparing an access site set for said first client computer,

5 wherein said step of detecting an access status comprises the step of detecting an access status of a client computer to said server for each of said access sites,

10 wherein said step of transmitting information based on an access status comprises the step of transmitting, when access to said prepared access site is detected at said step of detecting an access status, information to said first client computer linked with the access site of the detected access, said information indicating presence of a client computer accessing the access site linked with said first client computer.

40. The method according to claim 35, further comprising the step of preparing personal information for a user using said first client computer, wherein said step of detecting an access status comprises the step of

09867532 .053101
5 detecting personal information of a user using said client computer
accessing said server,

wherein said step of transmitting information based on an access
status comprises the step of transmitting information to said first client
computer registered with personal information similar to said personal
information detected at said step of detecting an access status, said
10 information indicating access to said server by a client computer having
personal information similar to the personal information of said user using
said first client computer.

41. A method of supporting an operation of a server to which a
plurality of client computers including a first client computer is connected
through a network, said server transmitting and receiving information with
respect to said plurality of client computers to allow said plurality of client
5 computers to share information with each other through said server, said
method comprising the steps of:

receiving query request information to inquire said access status
from said first client computer,

10 detecting an access status of a client computer to said server, and
transmitting information based on said access status to a first client
computer transmitting said query request information, in response to
reception of query request information at said step of receiving query
request information.

42. A method of supporting an operation of a server to which a
plurality of client computers are connected through a network, said server
allowing insertion of an advertisement that can be viewed by said plurality
of client computers, said method comprising the steps of:

5 preparing information indicating an advertiser,
detecting an access status of a client computer to said server, and
designating insertion of an advertisement to said server based on
information indicating said advertiser prepared when said access status
detected at said step of detecting an access status satisfies a predetermined

10 condition.

43. The server operation support method according to claim 42, wherein said predetermined condition includes a condition that a value calculated based on the number of accesses to said server is at least a predetermined number.

44. The method according to claim 42, further comprising the step of setting an advertising fee based on said access status.

45. The method according to claim 42, further comprising the step of communicating with said advertiser and receiving advertisement data from said advertiser,

5 wherein said step of designating insertion of an advertisement comprises the step of designating said server to post an advertisement realized by said received advertisement data.

46. The method according to claim 42, further comprising the step of communicating with said advertiser,

wherein said step of designating insertion of an advertisement comprises the steps of

5 transmitting insertion query information including insertion confirmation information confirming as to whether an advertisement is to be posted or not to said advertiser when said access status detected at said step of detecting an access status satisfies a predetermined condition, and
10 suppressing an operation at said step of detecting an access status in response to not receiving insertion request corresponding to said insertion query information within a predetermined period.

47. The method according to claim 46, wherein said insertion query information comprises access information indicating an access status detected at said step of detecting an access status.

09867532 053101
48. The method according to claim 46, wherein said step of transmitting insertion query information comprises the step of transmitting said insertion query information to a plurality of advertisers,
wherein said predetermined condition includes a condition
5 determined for each said advertiser.

49. The method according to claim 48, further comprising the step of setting an advertising fee based on said access status for each said advertiser.

50. The method according to claim 49, wherein said step of designating insertion of an advertisement comprises the step of designating insertion of an advertisement to said server in a descending order of said advertising fee in response to reception of an insertion request from a
5 plurality of said advertisers.

51. The method according to claim 49, wherein said insertion query information comprises charge information indicating an advertising fee set at said step of setting an advertising fee.

52. A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program realizing a method of supporting an operation of a server to which a plurality of client computers including a first client computer is connected through a network, said server transmitting and receiving information with
5 respect to said plurality of client computers to allow said plurality of client computers to share information with each other through said server, said method comprising the steps of:

preparing a transmission destination in transmitting information to said first client computer,

10 detecting an access status of a client computer to said server, and transmitting information based on said access status to a transmission destination prepared at the step of preparing a transmission destination when said access status detected at said step of detecting an

access status satisfies a predetermined condition.

53. A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program realizing a method of supporting an operation of a server to which a plurality of client computers including a first client computer is connected through a network, said server transmitting and receiving information with respect to said plurality of client computers to allow said plurality of client computers to share information with each other through said server, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving query request information to inquire said access status from said first client computer,

detecting an access status of a client computer to said server, and transmitting information based on said access status to a first client computer transmitting query request information, in response to reception of said query request information at said step of receiving query request information.

54. A computer-readable recording medium recorded with a program realizing a method of supporting an operation of a server to which a plurality of client computers are connected through a network, said server allowing insertion of an advertisement that can be viewed by said plurality of client computers, said method comprising the steps of:

preparing information indicating an advertiser,

detecting an access status of a client computer to said server, and

designating insertion of an advertisement to said server based on information indicating an advertiser when said access status detected at said step of detecting an access status satisfies a predetermined condition.